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CORONAVIRUS SPREAD

Mass gatherings restricted

‘A new, big, huge risk in your life’

Jackie Borchardt and Jessie Balmert
Cincinnati Enquirer
USA TODAY NETWORK

The public health fight to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus in Ohio entered a new phase Wednesday after a fourth person contracted the virus despite not traveling or having contact with another known infected person.

“The message to Ohio today was there is a new, big, huge risk in your life,” Gov. Mike DeWine said. “You need to calculate that risk just like you do everything else.”

A 53-year-old man from Stark County, which includes Canton, is the state’s first example of “community spread,” which means it’s not clear how he contracted the disease. He had no history of travel outside of the United States and no contact with someone who tested positive for the COVID-19 disease.

Three previous positive cases were identified in Cleveland’s Cuyahoga County. One couple had traveled for a Nile cruise. Another man attended the American Israel Public Affairs Committee conference in Washington, D.C. All are in their 50s.

This new phase will mean restrictions on mass gatherings, including banning spectators at NCAA basketball games in Dayton and Cleveland.

DeWine said he is drafting an order to limit gatherings of large groups of

See CORONAVIRUS, Page 4A

Members of the Erickson Academy of Irish Dance at the 2018 St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Mayor John Cranley is telling parade organizers they are to abide by the governor’s position that parades should be canceled this year. ENQUIRER FILE

City calls for cancellation of St. Patrick’s Day Parade

Anne Saker and Sarah Brookbank
Cincinnati Enquirer
USA TODAY NETWORK

City officials are telling organizers of Cincinnati’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade to cancel the event, following guidance from Gov. Mike DeWine.

The parade was scheduled for Saturday.

Similar parades in Ireland and Boston have been canceled because of concerns about the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley is telling organizers of the parade they are to abide by DeWine’s position that parades should be canceled.

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▮ Emergency declared in city. **4A**
▮ Students, police clash at UD. **4A**
▮ Virus scare at two schools. **5A**
▮ In U.S., warnings grow more dire. **1B**
▮ Coaches in unknown territory. **1C**

Kearney picked to fill Dennard seat on City Council

Sharon Coolidge
Cincinnati Enquirer
USA TODAY NETWORK

Cincinnati Herald Publisher Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney will replace Tamaya Dennard on Cincinnati City Council.

Since Dennard resigned last week in the wake of her arrest on federal charges that she traded a vote on a development deal for cash, Councilman P.G. Sittenfeld has been searching for a replacement.

Dennard, as the city charter calls for, had previously selected fellow Democrat Sittenfeld to choose her replacement should she not finish her term.

The selection was expected to take weeks, but Kearney immediately rose to the top of the list.

The selection caps a chaotic few weeks at City Hall, which also had the departure of Republican Councilwoman

Kearney

Amy Murray. Murray left to take a job with the Trump administration.

Betsy Sundermann, a Republican from East Price Hill, was selected to take her place.

The selections mean council retains the same demographic balance that citizens chose in 2017 for a four-year term – six men, four white and two black; two women, one black and one white. In the group there are six Democrats, two Republicans and one Independent.

Kearney and Sundermann will finish out four-year terms and be up for reelection in 2021.

The Enquirer talked with Kearney this week about her place atop the short list.

She and her husband, Eric Kearney, own Sesh Communications, which pub-

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Columnist Byron McCauley tells us about the mom who did just that. **Local, 3A**

Good times keep rolling
Ohio’s casinos, racinos break another record with big February. **Business, 3B**

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